

FREY FOUNDATION

GRANT GUIDELINES

The Frey Foundation strives to make the grant inquiry and application process as open and clear as possible. However, before you begin it helps to review our Grant Guidelines. We appreciate your time and interest in learning about the Frey Foundation. If you believe your project may be a fit with our funding priorities, we invite you to submit an inquiry so that we can begin working with you to see if our collective priorities align.

Funding Eligibility

Before submitting an inquiry, please ask yourself if your organization meets the following requirements:

- Has a current 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation from the Internal Revenue Service, is a governmental unit or other tax-exempt entity
- Serves communities primarily in Kent, Emmet or Charlevoix Counties or the broader West/Northern Michigan region
- Addresses one or more of our grantmaking priorities (detailed on page 2), and
- Intends to pursue a variety of funding sources for the program or project in order to demonstrate sustainability. (Note: grant requests generally should not exceed 15% of a total program budget, or 5% of a capital project budget)



We will not likely consider funding the following:

- Conferences or event sponsorship
- General operating expenses
- Requests from faith-based organizations that require participants to practice or adhere to specific religious beliefs
- Requests from individuals or organizations proposing activities that are non-charitable
- Organizations that do not demonstrate inclusive practices in board recruitment, hiring and delivery of service

Process Overview



How to Apply

After reviewing our guidelines, if you believe your project aligns with our eligibility requirements and funding priorities, we encourage you to submit a brief inquiry through the [online system](#) on our website at www.freyfdn.org. Once reviewed, you will be contacted by our staff within 30 days and may be invited to submit an application for funding at that time. Furthermore, you are also welcome to call us at *any* time to discuss your idea and to ask questions about the grant process. If you do not have web access or need assistance with the inquiry process, **our staff is here to help and can be reached Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 5:00PM by calling (616) 451-0303.**

• Stage One: Letter of Inquiry

- Inquiries are accepted by the foundation throughout the year. Once you have completed the online inquiry process, you can expect to hear from us within 30 days. Please understand that while all inquiries will be read, they may not generate an invitation to apply for funding. The Frey Foundation receives many compelling requests each year and regrettably, we are not able to fund each one.

• Stage Two: Application

- Once your inquiry has been reviewed, you may be invited to submit a grant application online. Funding decisions are generally made four times a year. **Keeping with a quarterly grant cycle, invited application deadlines generally fall on the 15th of February, May, August and November.** You can expect a decision within about 90 days of the application deadline which will likely be presented to the Board of Trustees at their next quarterly meeting. *For example*, an application submitted in February will likely receive a decision by the Board of Trustees in May. Please know that our staff is here to assist you with the application process, however, all funding decisions are made by the Frey family Board of Trustees.



FREY FOUNDATION PROGRAM AREAS & PRIORITIES

The Frey Foundation invests in four major program areas in **West and Northern Michigan**. Before you submit an inquiry, please review our program areas and priorities outlined below and consider how your project or program aligns with the foundation's grantmaking goals.

Building Community

Community is built at the intersection of people and place. With that understanding, we support projects and programs that range from neighborhood-based initiatives to efforts with broad regional impact that engage residents and foster community vibrancy. Our grantmaking priorities currently include:

- Building strong and attractive city centers and vibrant neighborhoods
- Fostering public/private partnerships to enhance local and regional impact
- Encouraging well-planned development with broad community input
- Supporting projects and programs that leverage capital investments and foster urban-rural connections

Children & Families

Children are a community's future. Their success is the community's success. We support integrated systems that promote healthy development of children and their families, with a special focus on programs that increase access to high-quality preschool and encourage school readiness. Our grantmaking priorities currently include:

- Leveraging community systems that ensure students and schools are successful
- Improving parenting skills
- Ensuring access to high-quality child care
- Promoting universal access to high-quality pre-school programs

Community Arts

We view the arts as a key indicator of community health, and a powerful tool for individual expression. Our goals are to stimulate the vitality, effectiveness and growth of community-based arts and to encourage community engagement in cultural experiences, particularly among children. Our grantmaking priorities currently include:

- Supporting an arts and cultural community that is strong and diverse
- Fostering high-quality, meaningful arts education
- Improving access to arts and cultural experiences for vulnerable populations
- Supporting leadership development for arts/culture organizations

Environment

Michigan's natural resources are iconic in beauty and global in significance. Our quality of life depends, in part, on maintaining a balance between open land and well-planned development, managing growth and protecting the natural environment. To that end, we support efforts to enhance, restore, protect and connect land and watersheds, regional trailways, parklands and other greenways widely enjoyed by the public. Our grantmaking priorities currently include:

- Preserving and restoring significant lakes and streams
- Expanding and connecting regional trails and greenways
- Protecting critical lands including farmland, parkland, and natural habitat areas

QUESTIONS?

Please contact us if you have questions or wish to discuss your idea. Our staff can be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by calling **(616) 451-0303**. We can also be reached through email at contact@freyfdn.org.

You can learn more about the Foundation and our past grantmaking by checking out our website at www.freyfdn.org.